

Proposed Addition to California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Section 80020.1, Pertaining to Additional Assignment Authorizations for Specific Special Education Credentials

September 17, 2002

Summary

This item proposes an addition to California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Section 80020.1, pertaining to additional assignment authorizations for specific special education credentials.

Fiscal Impact

There will be a minor cost to the agency related to disseminating the information to school districts and county offices of education and holding a public hearing. Such costs are contained within the budget of the Certification, Assignment and Waivers Division.

Policy Issues to be Resolved

Should the Commission permit additional assignment authorizations for specific special education credentials?

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the addition to California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Section 80020.1, pertaining to additional assignment authorizations for specific special education credentials for purposes of beginning the rulemaking files for submission to the Office of Administrative Law and scheduling a public hearing.

Background

In March 1993, the Commission approved a plan to study the alignment of pre-Ryan and Ryan credential authorizations. The plan developed by staff was an effort to respond to a recommendation by the Commission-approved Advisory Panel on Ways to Streamline the Credentialing System. The recommendation asked the Commission to align the more restrictive pre-Ryan credential authorizations with the Ryan Credentials and to require the teachers consent to serve in the assignment. In late 1993, Commission staff presented three proposals to the Commission to align pre-Ryan and Ryan Credential authorizations. With Commission approval, three sections were added to Title 5 Regulations in the areas of teaching, pupil personnel services, and administrative services.

One area of teaching authorizations that was overlooked in 1993 was special education. The Commission issued special education credentials under the General and Standard statutes that authorized service to special education students in grades K-12. The Ryan Specialist Instruction Credential, created in 1976, authorizes service in grades preschool, K-12, and adults. In 1997, the Commission adopted regulations to develop the Education Specialist Special Education Credential that authorizes service to mild/moderate and moderate/severe students in grades K-12 and for service in the low incidence areas such as deaf and hard of hearing, visual impairments, or physical impairments, ages birth to age 22.

At that time, the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Specialist Credential and Certificate were also created which authorizes service to mild/moderate and moderate/severe students ages birth to pre-K. The *Certificate* program, which is approximately eighteen semester units, is specifically for holders of special education credentials that need the authorization to serve mild/moderate or moderate/severe students birth to pre-K. An

individual that is only teaching students ages birth to preschool in the area of mild/moderate or moderate/severe may obtain the ECSE *Credential*.

There was another area of teaching authorizations overlooked when the new Education Specialist Credential was created. While the ECSE Certificate authorizes services to students specifically in the disability areas of mild/moderate and moderate/severe, teachers with the Ryan Specialist Credentials in the low incidences areas of communication, physically, and visually handicapped do not have this option, as the Certificate does not authorize these disability areas. If holders of these credentials wanted to serve ages birth to pre-K, they need to obtain a new Education Specialist Credential in the disability area.

The General and Standard Credentials do not include service to students below grade K. The preschool population was not served in public schools until mandated by PL-94-142 in 1974. With the growing popularity of preschools and to meet the federal mandate, the preschool grade level was added to the Ryan Credentials when it was created in 1976. The birth to pre-K authorization was added in 1997 as noted above with the ECSE Education Specialist Credentials due to another federal mandate and to address the growing number of children in that age group who needed specific special education services.

Prior to the creation of the ECSE Special Education Credential, some individuals who hold the General and Standard Credentials were providing services to special education students ages birth to preschool within the disability area on their document. Since 1997, employing agencies have struggled whether to require individuals with these “older” types of credentials to acquire the ECSE Special Education Certificate to serve ages birth to preschool.

Proposed Addition of Title 5 Regulations

Since special education credentials were overlooked in 1993 when options were added for other types of teaching and services credentials, staff is proposing to align the special education pre-Ryan Credential with the Ryan Education Specialist Credentials and at the same time align the authorizations for the low incidence Ryan Specialist Credentials. This proposal would allow local employing agencies to authorize individuals to serve students ages birth to preschool within the special education credential disability area authorized by the credential. The individual must have three years of prior teaching experience at the age level and in the disability area authorized by the credential. Staff is also proposing a sunset date to allow employers to continue to assign teachers with the three years of special education experience but would not allow “new” individuals to qualify for this option.

This proposal would allow General and Standard Credential holders to serve mild/moderate and moderate/severe to students of preschool age and students in low incidence disability areas ages birth to preschool. In addition, it would allow holders of Ryan Specialist Credentials in the low incidence disability areas of communication, physically and visually handicapped to serve students ages birth to pre-K. Teachers who do not have the three years of appropriate experience must obtain the ECE Certificate for service to mild/moderate and moderate/severe students or the Education Specialist Credential for service to low incidence disability areas. The current and proposed changes are illustrated in the following chart.

Type of Credential	Current Special Education Authorization	Proposed Special Education Assignment Option
General	Grades K-12 for all special education areas (i.e., mentally retarded, deaf,	Preschool for mild/moderate and moderate/severe disability areas (i.e.,

	blind, visually handicapped and orthopedically handicapped)	mentally retarded) Ages birth to preschool for low incidence disability areas (i.e., deaf, blind, visually handicapped, and orthopedically handicapped)
Standard	Grades K-12 for all special education areas (i.e., mentally retarded, deaf, blind, visually handicapped and orthopedically handicapped)	Preschool for mild/moderate and moderate/severe disability areas (i.e., mentally retarded) Ages birth to preschool for low incidence disability areas (i.e., deaf, blind, visually handicapped, and orthopedically handicapped)
Ryan Specialist	Grades preschool, K-12 and adults for all special education areas (communication, learning, physically, severely, and visually handicapped)	Ages birth to preschool for low incidence disability areas (communication, physically, and visually handicapped)
Education Specialist	Grades K-12 and age birth to pre-K for mild/moderate and moderate/severe (includes the ECSE Credential/Certificate authorization) Ages birth to age 22 for low incidence disability areas (deaf and hard of hearing, visually impaired, and physically impaired)	No change

Title 5, Section 80020.1. Additional Assignment Authorizations for Specific Special Education Credentials

- (a) The holder of the following credentials may be assigned, with his or her consent, to teach preschool age students in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential. The holder must have successfully taught preschool age students for a minimum of three years credential prior to July 1, 2003 in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential:
- (1) Standard Elementary and Standard Secondary Teaching Credential with a minor in Mentally Retarded,
 - (2) Standard Limited Specialized Preparation Teaching Credential with a major in Mentally Retarded,
 - (3) Exceptional Children Teaching Credential with a major in Mentally Retarded,
 - (4) Standard Restricted Teaching Credential with a minor in Trainable Mentally Retarded or Educable Mentally Retarded, and
 - (5) Special Secondary Teaching Credential with a major in Mentally Retarded.
- (b) The holder of the following credentials may be assigned, with his or her consent, to teach students ages birth to preschool in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential. The

holder must have successfully taught students ages birth to preschool for a minimum of three years credential prior to July 1, 2003 in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential:

- (1) Standard Elementary and Standard Secondary Teaching Credential with a minor in Speech and Hearing Handicapped, Deaf and Severely Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, or Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied,
 - (2) Standard Limited Specialized Preparation Teaching Credential with a major in Speech and Hearing Handicapped, Deaf and Severely Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, or Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied,
 - (3) Exceptional Children Teaching Credential with a major in Speech Correction and Lip Reading, Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, or Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied,
 - (4) Standard Restricted Teaching Credential with a minor in Speech and Hearing Therapy, Deaf and Severely Hard-of-Hearing, Visually Handicapped, Orthopedically Handicapped Including the Cerebral Palsied, Deaf-Blind, or Severely Hard-of-Hearing, and
 - (5) Special Secondary Teaching Credential with a major in Correction of Speech Defects, Deaf, Lip Reading, or Partially Sighted Child, and Blind.
- (c) The holder of the following credentials may be assigned, with his or her consent, to teach students ages birth to preschool in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential. The holder must have successfully taught students ages birth to pre-kindergarten for a minimum of three years credential prior to July 1, 2003 in the disability area(s) authorized by the credential:
- (1) Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential with a major in Communication Handicapped, Physically Handicapped or Visually Handicapped.

Note: Authority cited: Section 44225(q), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(b) and 44225(e), Education Code.